

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. It is believed that no new matter is added to the application by this Amendment.

Status of the Claims

Independent claims 1, 10, 11 and 21 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 3-5, 12, 13, 19, 20, 22 and 23 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14-18, 21 and 24 are pending in this application.

Drawing Objection

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for allegedly failing to show every feature of the claims, specifically, the feature that "wherein a size of the plurality of convex portions increases with increasing distance from the light source." Applicant respectfully traverses this objection.

Fig. 4 clearly show an embodiment where all sizes of the convex portions are the same, and a distance between two adjacent convex portions becomes smaller as the convex portions becomes more distant from the light source. In conjunction therewith, the specification, at page 6, states an alternative to this arrangement, stating that "[A]lternately, a uniform distribution may be achieved by increasing a size of the convex portions with increasing distance from the light source."

Applicant is aware that "[a]ny structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing." (emphasis added) See MPEP Form Paragraph 6.22.01, referencing § 608.02(d). However, Applicant respectfully submits that illustration of this claimed feature is not "essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention", since one of ordinary skill in the art can properly discern the meaning of "wherein a size of the plurality of convex portions increases with increasing distance from the light source"

by reference to the illustration in Fig. 4 and the discussion on page 6 of the specification discussed above, and without the separate illustration thereof.

Accordingly, the requirement for an illustration of “wherein a size of the plurality of convex portions increases with increasing distance from the light source” is respectfully submitted to be unnecessary, and reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 6-9, 11, 14-18, 21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinji et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,259,854 (hereinafter “Shinji”) in view of Ishikawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,575,549 (hereinafter “Ishikawa”).

Also, claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funamoto, European Patent Publication No. 0 878 720 (hereinafter “Funamoto”) in view of Ishikawa.

Complete discussions of the Examiner’s rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here. These rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

While not conceding to the Examiner’s rejections, claims 1, 10, 11 and 21 have been amended to further emphasize the distinctions between the present invention and the cited references.

Claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the cited references in that claim 1 recites a combination of elements including, for example, “... a lower surface having a plurality of convex portions extending from the lower surface, each of the convex portions having a substantially planar surface which is substantially parallel to the lower surface, and a side surface angle between the lower surface and a surface connecting the planar surface of the convex

portion is about 90° , wherein the plurality of convex portions have the same side surface angle with each other,"

However, Shinji and Ishikawa do not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 6-9 are allowable over these applied references.

Claim 11, as amended, is allowable over the cited reference in that claim 11 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "... an entry surface connecting the upper and lower reflective surfaces through which light from a light source enters, wherein each convex portion includes a planar portion and sides connecting the planar portion with the lower reflective surface, and a side surface angle between the lower surface and the sides is about 90° , wherein the plurality of convex portions have the same side surface angle with each other,"

However, Shinji and Ishikawa do not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 and its dependent claims 14-18 are allowable over these applied references.

Claim 21, as amended, is allowable over the cited reference in that claim 21 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "... a light directing device located above the reflector and adjacent to the light source to direct light from the light source to the reflector outwardly along an orthogonal direction such that a light distribution of light directed by the light directing device is substantially uniform along the length of the reflector, and such that the directed light is substantially perpendicular to the reflector, and the light directing device includes a plurality of portions each extending toward the reflector at a 90° angle such that the light reflected outwardly along an orthogonal direction to the liquid crystal display device is uniform, wherein a size of the plurality of portions increases with increasing distance from the light source."

However, Shinji and Ishikawa do not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 21 and claim 24, which depends therefrom, are allowable over these applied references.

Claim 10, as amended, is allowable over Funamoto and Ishikawa in that claim 10 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "... a light directing member for directing incident light from the light source toward the display panel, the light directing member having a lower surface having a plurality of convex portions, each having a substantially planar surface which is substantially parallel to the lower surface, a side surface angle between the lower surface and a surface connecting the planar surface of the convex portion being about 90° , wherein the plurality of convex portions have the same side surface angle with each other,"

However, Funamoto and Ishikawa do not teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is allowable over these applied references.

CONCLUSION

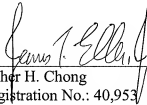
Therefore, Applicant believes the foregoing remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong, Reg. No. 40,953, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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